



NEW U.S.-TAIWAN JOINT VENTURE ESTABLISHES SILICON VALLEY HEADQUARTERS TO SUPPLY AND SUPPORT SEMICONDUCTOR-GRADE SEALS

Elastomeric Seals Used Throughout Wafer Fabs Are Vital to Maximizing Equipment Uptime and Process Performance

NEWARK, Calif., July 7, 2009 – Taiwan-based GMORS, a leading supplier of high-technology sealing components, and DV Consulting have launched Applied Seals North America, Inc., a California-based joint venture specializing in durable, inert elastomeric sealing products for the semiconductor, solar and pharmaceutical markets in the U.S., Europe, Japan and China.

In the semiconductor industry, sealing products made with perfluoroelastomer materials are used to reliably seal and maintain the integrity of ultraclean processing chambers, preventing contamination and outgassing problems that reduce IC manufacturing yields. These products are used in virtually all deposition and etching systems including CVD, ALD, PVD, CMP, dry etching, cleaning and track equipment.

As tolerances tighten for submicron-sized particles and vacuum requirements, the ability to correctly design, prescribe and apply sealing products for each harsh processing environment has become key to the productivity of multi-billion-dollar wafer fabs. Perfluoroelastomer seals and o-rings have been shown to extend cycle times for preventive maintenance (PM). This increases manufacturing uptime, boosting a wafer fab's production capacity without the expense of additional equipment.

In a recent evaluation of one customer's PECVD operations, Applied Seals' situation analysis and o-ring recommendation extended the run time between maintenance service from 3,000 wafers to 20,000 wafers.

"Sealing products are far from commodity items," explained Dalia Vernikovsky, president and general manager of the new Applied Seals North America. "Not only can their composition be tailored for specific applications, but the use of different filler systems, curing processes and even installation methods can dramatically impact the performance and lifetime of elastomeric seals.

"The new operation in Newark, Calif., gives us proximity to our customers throughout the western U.S., allowing us to provide direct engineering support and resolve any issues much more quickly," she added.



“With our in-house resources, we’re now able to deliver application solutions, post-sales service and product consignment not only to the semiconductor market, but also to the solar energy, pharmaceutical and biotech industries.”

Reflecting the ultraclean environments in which they are used, the high-end perfluoroelastomer seals sold by Applied Seals remain within a Class 100 cleanroom environment throughout production and packaging. This is one of the factors differentiating Applied Seals’ products from those offered by other suppliers.

About GMORS

Founded in 1981, GMORS is the largest producer of sealing products in Taiwan and parent company of Applied Seals Co., Ltd., also based in Taiwan. In addition to supplying the microelectronics, biomedical and chemical processing industries, GMORS provides sealing products for every major automobile manufacturer in the world. Made from advanced elastomeric compounds in tightly controlled cleanroom environments, the company’s products maintain high-integrity seals while withstanding the thermal variances, harsh chemicals and ultrafine particles that they encounter when installed in high-tech manufacturing equipment.

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